

visits to Kansas and our many discussions here in our Nation's Capital.

In 2019, Secretary McCarthy joined me in Kansas to visit Seitz Elementary School, which serves the families of the Big Red One soldiers on Fort Riley. Secretary McCarthy was instrumental in helping to find funding for this school in 2011 when he was the Special Assistant to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, a Kansan. I was pleased he joined me in Kansas to visit the school—and its students—that he helped create in 2019. We also met with Fort Riley leadership and then traveled to Wichita to visit defense manufacturing and academic leaders to discuss the future of Army procurement.

These personal touch points with soldiers and with the Army community were some of the reasons why Secretary McCarthy was universally respected within the Army family.

While I will always appreciate our personal engagements with soldiers, I will also remember our efforts to support soldiers and veterans when they step off the battlefield or separate from military service.

This past Veterans Day, we coauthored an editorial that discussed our parallel efforts to support the mental health and well-being of soldiers and veterans. Reports show Americans across the country are feeling isolated and alone in today's socially distanced environment, including our Nation's service men and women and veteran populations. Between my efforts as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to implement the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act and Secretary McCarthy's effort to build interpersonal connections between soldiers, we are working to give soldiers and veterans the tools they need to overcome mental health challenges they face.

As Secretary McCarthy transitions out of the watchful eye of public life, I rise this evening to express my appreciation for his leadership, his character, and his moral compass. He never let politics or convenience influence his decisions, and that has significantly benefited soldiers, Army civilians, veterans, and Kansans across the Nation.

As the chairman and now ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will always strive to help veterans find success after service.

Secretary McCarthy, I have no doubts that you will find success and happiness after your dedicated service to our country. I thank your family for their support of your public service. I know that you and your family will find a quality life with purpose and meaning as you enter the next phase.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS GILLOTT

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and thank three long-serving aides who have served my office but more importantly served our Nation proudly, and they are now moving on to the next chapters of their lives.

First, Chris Gillott. Chris Gillott was my legislative director and for 8 years has been my right-hand person on policy. He never failed to take the ideas we discussed together and craft the actual policy needed to make a meaningful difference in the lives of folks in Louisiana and the lives of all Americans.

He was a master at navigating the partisan divide to find areas of consensus upon which we could build to advance real solutions. I was always struck that he was on a first-name basis with the legislative director of—and fill in the Democratic Senator's or the Republican Senator's name. You have a sense that in the era before Zoom calls, they would go out and have a beer on a regular basis, and that helped us tremendously.

We saw this fully on display recently as Chris was a central figure in the so-called 908 Coalition, which jump-started stalled COVID relief packages. And it wasn't just the relationships between the Senators but, again, as I said, between the different legislative directors from both parties in all offices.

His efforts were also central to passing legislation to ban surprise medical billing—a more than 2-year effort that will have a direct and positive impact on the pocketbooks of American families. He was crucial in our effort to make healthcare more affordable and pass generational tax reform. For every major legislative pursuit, I could rely upon Chris.

What many in Louisiana may not know is that he has also been a central figure engaged in some of the most pressing issues affecting our State, including offshore energy production, revenue sharing, energy regulation and permitting, the National Flood Insurance Program, and public works related to flood protection. These are all important to the well-being of our State and the folks who live there, as well as our entire country, and all these were regularly under assault.

Chris was a fearless advocate for energy production and for the jobs that energy production creates to not only help meet America's energy needs but to meet the individual families' financial needs. He has been on the frontlines to prevent changes to revenue sharing that would gut the money used in my State for hurricane protection, flood mitigation, and coastal environmental renewal. He has defended the National Flood Insurance Program to ensure that this critical lifeline remains accessible to people across the country and, importantly, to those in Louisiana.

Thank you, Chris, for all you have done for me and for those of Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO ALLISON KAPSNER SOLLEY

Madam President, the next person I will speak of is Allison Kapsner Solley. Allison is a Minnesotan. She said she grew up on the upper end of the Mississippi, but she found a home in the lower end of the Mississippi—or at least the office that represented Louisiana. She joined my staff at the beginning of my first Senate term as a scheduler but through sheer excellence became deputy chief of staff and a close confidant.

Trust is so important. I learned I could always trust Allie's judgment and her ability to accomplish anything. She is irreplaceable. She has had an impact on this office, ensuring that we better serve Louisiana, but that impact has meant that we will better serve Louisiana even after her departure.

Some examples. For any office to succeed, it needs to run efficiently and effectively. I knew this, that we had to have systems. Allie figured out the systems. She implemented them across all the offices here in DC and Louisiana. She kept things running smoothly. And she has a skill of identifying an individual's strengths and helping that individual leverage those strengths into results that contributed to the whole but also to the future of the individual.

I am about to say this about Allie, but I could say it of Chris and also of David, whom I am about to speak of. In Mark chapter 10, versus 42 through 45, Jesus speaks about servant leadership, and in there is a quote that “the greatest among you shall be your servants.” Allie is someone who has served others and helped others serve as well. Whether it be our staff, our mission, our constituents, the State of Louisiana, or the United States of America, she served creatively and tirelessly. She will be greatly missed, but I am looking forward to all that she achieves as she enters the next phase of her career.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MILLS

Madam President, now let me speak of David Mills, a Louisiana native and a man of tremendous character and deep faith who has served for 5 years on my staff. He came to Washington because he felt called to give back to his State and Nation through public service. He was working in Congress for the right reasons, and his work reflected that.

David handled pro-life issues and other legal issues for my office. He was key in last year's impeachment trial as an attorney providing quick, reliable research to supplement my understanding of the testimony that we heard.

David also has the ability just to note something others don't notice and then very gently suggest some modification of how I would handle a situation, and that modification, although nuanced, could be so important, and I really learned to trust those insights.

David also handled privacy issues and has laid the foundation for work that

will continue after he has left us. As society becomes more technologically centered, we must ensure that data privacy laws keep up. David was on the forefront of that, thinking, how do we protect the privacy of consumers?

As I mentioned, this will be an important issue in this upcoming Congress, and just let me be specific. David developed legislation on questions regarding the data that is collected from a wearable, a smartwatch, a contact tracing app, and other information that provides personal health information but which is not covered by current personal health information laws. Our office will continue to build on David's work in those areas, and I thank David for all he has done.

Sometimes people say: Oh my gosh, those folks who are younger than those of us in the Senate—is there something lacking? I can promise you, among these, there is nothing lacking. They are the leaders who will take your place and my place as we pass the baton to the next generation, and, in turn, they shall pass to another to leave our future brighter than it has been in the past.

NOMINATION OF JANET LOUISE YELLEN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise in support of Janet Yellen's nomination to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. I've known Janet since she became president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in 2004. I believe she is an excellent nominee for this position.

Janet has an impressive record. She served twice on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and was the first woman to chair the Fed from 2014 to 2018. She became a professor of economics at the University of California—Berkeley in 1980, she is now professor emeritus. Dr. Yellen served as Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors under President Clinton and has been very active as a distinguished fellow at the Brookings Institution.

As some have joked, Janet's husband of 42 years, George, won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, yet he is only the second-most accomplished economist in his own home.

All of these accomplishments did not come easily for a woman in the male-dominated field of economics.

Out of the 24 students who received doctorates in economics from Yale in 1971, Janet was the only woman. She has been a trailblazer her entire career.

Now, Janet brings the experience and leadership needed at the Treasury Department at this critical juncture.

I believe that Janet understands that the economy is not an abstract series of charts and figures, but a collection of real individuals, families, communities and businesses who need help now.

At the same time, she is pragmatic and recognizes the need for fiscal discipline. I believe she made that clear in her confirmation before the Finance Committee, where I had the honor of introducing her.

In short, she is the ideal candidate to head the Treasury Department at a time when we can afford nothing less. I urge the Senate to confirm her nomination. Thank you.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, as we face an economic crisis brought on by COVID-19, we will need steady, proven leadership at the Treasury Department. A highly respected economist, Dr. Yellen served first as Vice Chair and then Chair of the Federal Reserve. She has served under Democratic and Republican presidents and during periods of economic crisis and economic growth.

Last year, I worked with my colleagues to deliver bipartisan relief for those who have been harmed by the pandemic. We addressed the crisis in five bills totaling approximately \$3 trillion. Through subsequent negotiations in November and December on an additional \$900 billion package, we secured a second round of Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loans for the hardest hit small businesses and extended unemployment programs, assistance for schools, vaccine delivery, and more. But additional work remains.

During this crisis, Secretary Mnuchin proved himself to be an able partner to all of us in delivering this relief. It is my hope that Treasury Secretary-designate Yellen will build on our work. In her testimony before the Senate Finance Committee and during the subsequent questions, Dr. Yellen made clear that she understands these needs.

Our nation's eight living former Secretaries of the Treasury have provided their support for the nomination. I urge the swift confirmation of Janet Yellen to ensure that President Biden has a qualified economic team in place. Thank you.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to support the nomination of Janet Yellen, a dedicated public servant and world-renowned economist, as Secretary of the Treasury.

Janet Yellen's extensive background in economics and accomplished career in the field led her to Chair the Federal Reserve, where she served with distinction in the aftermath of the great recession. Ms. Yellen brought a steady hand and wisdom befitting her experience to her responsibilities at the helm of the Federal Reserve, and as a member of the Banking Committee, I always appreciated her frank testimony and thoughtful analysis.

In her new role as Treasury Secretary, she will inherit an economic crisis caused by a mismanaged pandemic. She will be charged not only with providing historic relief in close coordination with Congress, but also with building back better to create the conditions for a dynamic economy that harnesses the potential of each and every American. I am confident in her ability to take on these urgent challenges. I look forward to voting yes on

her nomination and working closely with her in the years ahead to ensure that we build an economy that works for everyone.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON YELLEN NOMINATION

Mr. PETERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Yellen nomination?

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Hagerty	Padilla
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Brown	Inhofe	Rounds
Burr	Johnson	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Sasse
Capito	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	Kennedy	Schumer
Carper	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	Markey	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Toomey
Duckworth	McConnell	Van Hollen
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Ernst	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Moran	Warren
Fischer	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wicker
Graham	Murray	Wyden
Grassley	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—15

Barrasso	Cruz	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hoeben	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Paul	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—1

Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and